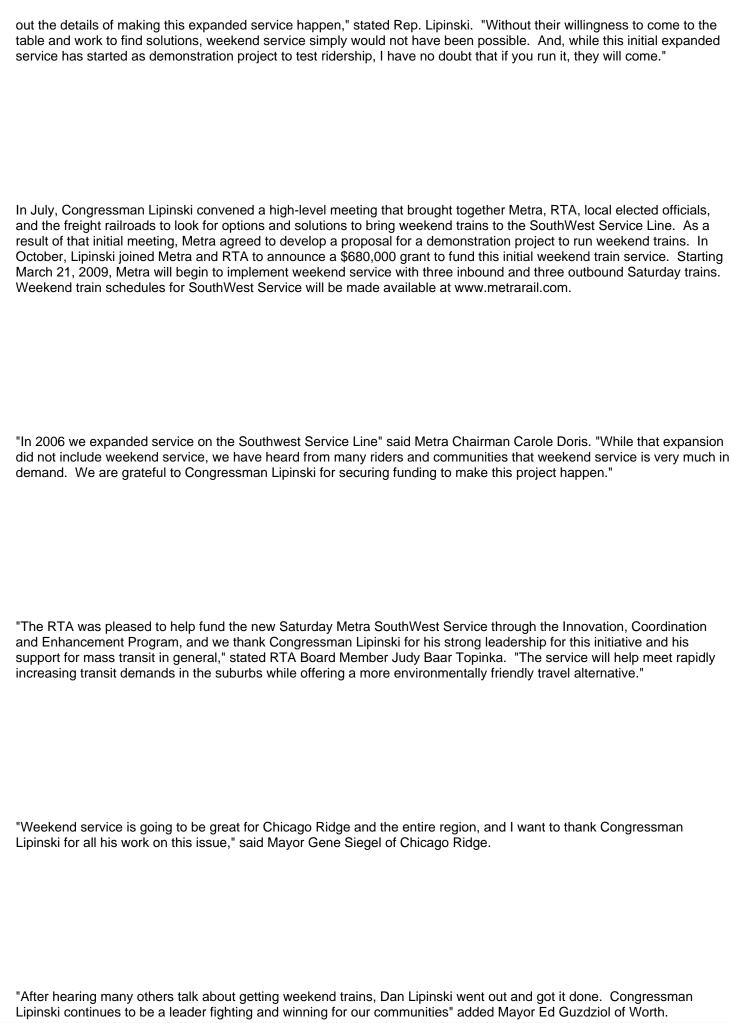
(March 2, 2009) Lipinski: "LONG-SOUGHT SouthWest Service Weekend Trains NOW À REALITY―

Congressman's effort to establish weekend service pays off
[OAK LAWN, IL] Today, Congressman Dan Lipinski (IL-03) was joined by transit operators, numerous elected officials, and railroad representatives to announce the success of the congressman's exhaustive effort to bring weekend train service to Metra's SouthWest Service Line. The highly desired weekend service will begin on March 21, 2009. As Chicagoland's only member of the powerful House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Lipinski initiated and coordinated the negotiations that made this expanded service a reality.
Representative Lipinski was joined by Phil Pagano, Executive Director of Metra; Carole Doris, Metra Board Chairman; Judy Baar Topinka, Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Board Member; Mayor Gene Siegel of Chicago Ridge; Mayor Ed Guzdziol of Worth; and many other local officials. The SouthWest Service runs from Chicago to Manhattan with stops in communities such as Ashburn, Wrightwood, Oak Lawn, Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Heights, and Palos Park.
"Today we mark a historic moment in the history of the SouthWest Service Line and all the communities along the line," said Rep. Lipinski. "Countless residents of these communities as well as elected officials from Manhattan to Wrightwood had come to me about the need for weekend service. Many viewed weekend trains on SouthWest Service as only a dream. But - as planned and promised - that dream is coming true in less than three weeks.
"Whether someone is going to work on the weekend or a family is going out for a day of fun, this will be very beneficial, especially in these tough economic times," continued Lipinski. "This will also help communities along the line to bring people to destinations in their towns, like the Oak Lawn Children's Museum.

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"I was proud bring together the relevant stakeholders, including Metra and the freight railroads, to sit down and hammer



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As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Congressman Lipinski is tasked with working to formulate national transportation policy and has been a tireless advocate for expanding local access to mass transit. This year, the Committee intends to reauthorize a \$286.5 billion highway and transit funding bill, which provides billions of dollars to Illinois and local transit agencies like Metra, CTA, and Pace for road and transit funding.

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